Pride In Place Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Date and Time: 11.08.2026 10-11.30am

Location: Benchill Community Centre

Chair: Eamonn O'Neal

Secretariat: Sally Coates - MCC Project Lead Pride in Place

Board Members:

[Resident names redacted from published document]

Sam Lynch, Councillor for Northenden

Mike Kane, MP

Observers and other attendees:

Brian Pemberton – MCC Project Lead Pride in Place

Sofi Jones – Mike Kane MPs Office

Apologies:

Sarah Woolley, Vice Chair

Emma Taylor, Councillor for Sharston

Astrid Johnson, Councillor for Woodhouse Park

Karen Wilson, Vice Chair

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies received:

Emma Taylor, Astrid Johnson, Karen Wilson, Sarah Woolley

2. Declaration of Interest

Attendees did not have anything to declare.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting – matters arising

Board member asked for all meeting papers in paper form including minutes from previous meetings.

No other matters arising.

4. Board Expectations

- Introduction to being a board member - The chair ran through a presentation to explain the role of the board and its members. He explained the role of individuals and outlined the expectations of board members. The chair also gave a brief overview of governance and financial responsibilities. The chair explained that the first board meeting was a 'get to know' session and that this overview was provided to solidify people's understanding of their role. He provided an opportunity for board members to ask any questions.

- Training needs – the chair asked board members if they had any thoughts about whether there are any group training needs. A board member asked whether there was a need for all board members to be DBS checked if members are going to engage with children and/or vulnerable adults. Sally and Brian confirmed they can look into this further. Board members discussed the level of DBS check needed and the practicalities around this. Cllr Lynch discussed ways we can remove some of the jargon from meetings and support each other to understand acronyms etc. And discussed a shared space where some of this information can be stored. The chair also expressed that meetings should be a safe space for people to ask any questions about anything that they are unsure of.

- Needs of board members as individuals – Sally confirmed she is working with the other Neighbourhood Project Leads to put together a training needs assessment for board members and that we can then look at training opportunities. As part of this conversation, the chair gave a brief overview of the pending remuneration policy and explained that this will be discussed in detail at a future meeting once the policy has been agreed and shared.

- Board members area of interest/responsibility – the chair confirmed he would be carrying out a piece of work to look at board members areas of interest and how this will link to future pieces of work where some members may take on more of a role than others based on their interests. He asked board members to email him with their areas of interest so that we can look at this at future meetings.

- PIP funding/finance reporting from MCC – No update provided.

- Community /Residents and Youth Panel Timetables - The chair advised that a paper had been shared with all members regarding a Youth Panel which will act as a subgroup and feed information into board meetings. He asked people to share their views with Karen once they had time to read and digest the paper. There was conversation around whether this would be recognised as a board. A board member suggested this could be a Youth Lived Experience panel. Discussion then moved to recruiting a young person to the board. A board member raised their concerns around only recruiting one young person and how this may not be inclusive enough in terms of representing a broader range of young people. They suggested we recruit two young people, one male and one female to ensure a fair representation. The chair asked others what they thought of this, and board members agreed that this would be a good idea. Mike Kane MP suggested a recruitment process similar to how the board was selected; the Chair suggested that this could be done alongside the recruitment to the Youth Panel. The chair asked for a show of hands to see who was in favor of recruiting two young people to the board.

Decision - Board members voted in favor of recruiting two young people to the board.

- Quick wins brainstorm -

One board member suggested cleaning up the green space around Egan's Gym.

Another board member suggested that any action taken in terms of a quick win should come from the feedback received from the community. All board members in attendance agreed.

A third member explained that they'd like to see improvement in parks in the area, and whilst they know funding should not cover services that should already be funded/provided by the local authority or local housing associations, it would be a good idea to look at funding can support or improve existing provision.

Another board member talked about consolidating ideas to ensure a joined-up approach.

Mike Kane MP offered suggestions around the improvement of green spaces on Greenwood Road and cutting these back to create an immediate visual impact. He also discussed the offer of a free bike repair service for all residents in the PIP area. Sally suggested we work with partners who can support this offer rather than using PIP funds. Mike's third point suggested a bulb planting event in October/November time. Sally suggested working with the Neighbourhood teams to implement this and potentially utilise some match funding.

There was a suggestion made by a board member to engage with Wythenshawe FM to support broader programming to increase diversity; this could be a sponsored segment by Pride in Place. Brian then added that this could support a wider engagement plan.

A board member then asked whether we had agreed on a funding pot that people can apply to, to support residents and groups to access Pride in Place funding so that residents' groups and community assets feel the direct benefit of Pride in Place funding. The board agreed that this is a good idea, and the chair suggested that we need to think about how this will work, the amounts people can apply for, how this will be administered, and the criteria the board will use to approve or deny applications. A board member expressed that they'd like to go out and meet with applicants to see the work that they are doing and to build relationships and continue with Pride in Place engagement.

The chair explained that Forever Manchester would be willing to support the administration of funding and asked how we could get this started. Sally suggested getting confirmation in writing from Forever Manchester that they'd be happy to hold the money and pay it to groups, as a board agree the amount for the pot and the amount that people can apply for and that she then can speak to the policy team to get this started.

Action 1 - Sally to find out legalities around DBS checks for board members engaging with children/young people and vulnerable adults

Action 2 – Board members to email Eamonn with the areas of interest

Action 3 - Board members to email Karen with any suggestions/comments regarding the Youth Panel paper that has previously been circulated.

Action 4 – Sally and Eamonn to explore establishing a funding pot further to update at the next board meeting.

A board member asked for an agreement regarding the date for the community celebration. All members agreed 26th September as it gives ample time for planning the event.

5. **Engagement session update**

The board members who were present at this event suggested it was a valuable session which distilled some of the priorities into four main areas of need. As it was not a formal board meeting, no specific decisions were made, However, an agreement was reached to look further at some statistics and findings whilst acknowledging the four main areas of community need may form the basis of the overarching statement required by the MHCLG by November 2026

6. **MHCLG update - Defining the Place (Boundary + Context)**

Chair confirmed MHCLG have emailed to confirm the boundary changes have been accepted.

7. **A.O.B**

A board member asked for an agreement regarding the date for the community celebration. All members agreed on 26th September as it gives ample time for planning the event.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

Future Board meetings:

- 25th August 2026